

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-03
OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-11 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00
COME-00 INR-10 IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01
STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15 /120 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9365
INFO AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ICCO, GH, EAGR, IV

SUBJECT: RENEGOTIATION OF INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT

REF: ACCRA 4542

1. IN COURSE OF AMBASSADOR AND E/C CHIEF'S CALL ON MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BRA KANON JUNE 23, THE PROPOSED RENEGOTIATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL COCOA AGREEMENT WAS DISCUSSED. BRA KANON SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO GHANA, AND THAT HE HAD BEEN ABLE "ALMOST" TO REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMMON POSITION TOWARD A NEW COCOA AGREEMENT. HE NOTED THAT IN EARLY JULY THE ALLIANCE OF COCOA PRODUCERS WOULD MEET IN LIBREVILLE TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT ON ITS POSITION FOR THE UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS. HE SAID THAT HE MIGHT BE IN LONDON AT THE TIME OF THE JULY ICCO COUNCIL MEETING BUT THAT HE WOULD PROBABLY NOT SIT IN ON THE
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MEETINGS. HE SAID THAT HE REGARDED THE U.S. PROPOSALS FOR REVISION OF THE 1975 AGREEMENT AS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE AND ADDED THAT HE THOUGHT THEY INDICATED A NEW, MORE POSITIVE U.S. ATTITUDE TOWARD PARTICIPATION IN A COCOA AGREEMENT. FURTHER, HE WAS HOPEFUL THAT THE U.S. AND THE GOIC COULD MAINTAIN CLOSE CONTACT THROUGHOUT THE COMING NEGOTIATIONS.

2. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED BRA KANON FOR HIS VIEWS ON THE ROLE OF EXPORT QUOTAS IN ANY NEW AGREEMENT. BRA KANON REPLIED THAT AS THE ONLY COUNTRY IN AFRICA AND PRACTICALLY THE ONLY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD WITH INCREASING COCOA PRODUCTION (BRAZIL'S PRODUCTION IS INCREASING MORE MODESTLY), THE IVORY COAST WOULD HAVE TO LOOK VERY CLOSELY AT ANY EXPORT QUOTA SYSTEM.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM THE STRESS BRA KANON PLACED ON IVORY COAST'S UNIQUE POSITION AS A PRODUCER WITH RAPIDLY INCREASING PRODUCTION (EXPECTED TO REACH ABOUT 280,000 TONS -- INCLUDING SMUGGLING FROM GHANA -- IN THE RECENTLY COMPLETED HARVEST), WE BELIEVE THE IVORY COAST WILL DRIVE A HARD BARGAIN ON ANY PROPOSALS FOR A QUOTA SYSTEM. SHOULD THE OTHER PRODUCERS INSIST ON A QUOTA SYSTEM WHICH IS NOT IN THE GOIC'S INTEREST, IT MIGHT RPT MIGHT BE WILLING TO BREAK RANKS AND SUPPORT THE U.S. PROPOSAL.

STEARNS

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